

PLAYGROUND BUSY AT CURTIS SCHOOL

Heat No Deterrent of Active Children

LOAD OF SAND PROVIDES FUN

Miss Carr, in Charge, Finds Favor With the Little Folk—Much in Demand.

If anyone can doubt the good which public playgrounds are doing in Washington a visit to one or more of them will be proof sufficient that many little hearts are made happier by these institutions.

One might think that during those hot afternoons the children, as well as grown folks, would seek out the coolest place they could find and remain quiet in order to keep cool. Not so in the playgrounds, both in those on vacant lots about Washington and in the school yards, a number of children may be found each day enjoying themselves as much as if old Sol were not in existence.

A reporter for The Times visited the playgrounds of the Curtis School in Georgetown recently, and on first glance thought no provision had been made for the children. But after walking up the long side yard of the school to the shaded playground yard this impression was quickly dismissed.

Fun in Sand Heap.

A cart loaded with sand was backed up into the yard and the children swarmed about it like bees. Miss Carr, who is in charge of the Curtis School grounds for six weeks, was the central figure of the group and apparently as much interested in the dumping of the sand as the smallest tot in the ground. The sand had been brought to fill a large trough about the playground, and a long-improvised playground for the little ones, and one in which the older children will not be permitted to interfere. Some of the little tots who will spend many a happy hour in this sand pile were about the grounds, but in order to have a hand in the thing some way the older boys had the time of their lives heaving the driver to dump the sand. When it was all out a wheelbarrow was quickly brought and the boys went to work with a vengeance carrying the sand to the big box.

Delay in Completion.

The playgrounds at the Curtis School have not been completed. Some things have been very late in arriving. Holes for the swings and various apparatus for the building have not been dug, which will be installed here and there. In spite of the fact that few things are there for the children to enjoy, the attendance every day averages between 80 and 100 children. They come to play games and to hear the stories which Miss Carr tells them every day. She has a fund of fairy stories and, for the older children, she tells of historical incidents, clothed in story form. The children enjoy this so much that when the hour for closing comes they are loath to leave. Miss Carr goes to school at 8 o'clock and she is back again at 2 3/4 o'clock and she is back again at 2 3/4 o'clock and she is back again at 2 3/4 o'clock instead of half-past.

"The Little Mother."

Just as everything was going beautifully yesterday a wall was heard, and around the corner of the building came a little barefoot tot of two years, crying like her heart would break. Miss Carr went immediately to soothe the baby, but she had a sister and, for anyone but her five-year-old sister, known as "the little mother."

When she reached her the little tot put her arms around the older one's neck and wailed. She had hurt her finger. It took only a pat from "the little mother" and a word or two, and the hurt was forgotten.

These two children are veritable beauties. The older one recently won a prize for beauty, offered by The Times. Among the boys and girls who were playing about the yard yesterday was a girl about ten years old, who hobbled about on crutches, but apparently was enjoying herself as much as anyone. When she was two years old she was run over by a street car, and one of her legs had to be amputated.

Jumps With Her Crutch.

Every once in a while yesterday she would jump down one crutch, take up a long-handled brush and hop about the yard sweeping up the dirt as chipper as if she had never been maimed. Miss Carr said when the children jumped rope this little girl could hop in with her crutch and jump as good as the next one.

The children are apparently much attached to Miss Carr, who has the school for six weeks, and will then be relieved by another teacher.

Miss Carr is a well adapted teacher to look after the children, for she is a kindergarten teacher in the public schools, and last year had a class of fifty pupils. She teaches the children kindergarten games, and has the happy knack of keeping them amused during the entire time they are on the ground. When it was too hot to play yesterday morning the children all took a hand in helping Miss Carr dig out the weeds which were fast making headway among the attractive flower garden which lines the school walk.

NOTHING IRREGULAR IN MORMON CLAIM

The recent sensational story that the Mormon Church authorities intended to be able to secure special benefits for their own people in the matter of securing lands at the coming opening of the Uintah reservation, by reason of "Land Office connections," has been explained to the general satisfaction of Commissioner Richards of the General Land Office.

Senators Smoot and Southerland of Utah have sent a statement of the matter to Commissioner Richards. They express confidence that nothing irregular has been or will be attempted, and explain that some misconstruction of the announcement of the church authorities had caused the trouble.

DESPITE THE HEAT OF JULY THE LITTLE FOLKS OF WASHINGTON FIND TIME TO PLAY IN THE SAND PILE



BUILDINGS MENACE HEALTH OF PUBLIC

Hundreds of Such Dwellings Put Up Annually.

NO LAW ON ALLEY SITES

Owners May Build on Every Foot of Lot Space—Business Men's Investigation.

Hundreds of residence buildings are being built every year that are a menace to public health.

This is the statement of a member of the committee of the business men who are voluntarily devoting their time in trying to bring about successfully a change in the local code of building regulations in the interest of the public's health.

It is true, these representative business men say, that at the present moment there is no law prohibiting the building up of apartment or tenement houses to occupy every foot of lot space, if the lot extends to an alley. But all evils must be remedied and now is the time this building evil, now in its infancy, should be remedied.

In yesterday's Times a number of cases were specified where light, air, and ventilation are, or will be, under certain conditions, decidedly wanting. These cases are but a few of the many, and the poorer districts and the fashionable districts are in the same category in this respect.

The business men's committee has pointed out to the District Commissioners the restrictions that have been imposed upon apartment house building in New York city and claim that those restrictions, even in a more stringent form, can be applied to the buildings of this city.

Wants Breathing Places in Every City Block

Dr. Henry S. Curtis, superintendent of public playgrounds, is enthusiastic in recommending that breathing spaces should be provided for in every one of our city blocks.

"The mothers and children are the ones who need fresh air and sunlight," he said, "and I favor any movement tending to amend the building laws."

High Standard Maintained in Loaning on Buildings

Several enterprising business men of this city go even further than the New York building laws require in constructing apartment and tenement houses in the District. Others who are interested in the city's welfare and maintenance of public health have a code of laws of their own which they require to be followed.

Mr. Edson's Views.

Of the latter class John Joy Edson is the prime mover. In speaking of the proposed building regulation Mr. Edson said to a Times reporter:

"For years, not only in respect to apartment houses, but to other residential buildings, I have felt the want of practical and what I consider essential regulations for the construction of such buildings with a view to air and sunlight, thus securing sanitary and healthful conditions.

"There are two main considerations in the granting of permits to build that I consider important. One is that proper substantial constructions be required.

"Thousands of buildings are put up of such poor material and are so frail that they depreciate the value of the property and the neighborhood in which they are built.

"Millionaire of Mojave" in Gotham Without Roll

Buys Beer for Crowd and Says Wife Carries the Coin—Counts Change at Bar—Visits Wall Street in Auto.

NEW YORK, July 15.—How they do peter out as they approach the metropolis—where there are others, many others.

Magnified by telescopic distance, Mary Ellen Lease, Carrie Nation, J. Waldere Kirk, "Bath House John" and "Scott, the Croesus of Death Valley," loomed grandly on the horizon. Under the microscope of little old New York they all shrink to the petty proportions of the same old game.

Here Without His Roll.

Walter Scott, the millionaire of the Mojave desert, who made mysterious trips into Death Valley and came back laden with gold, landed here yesterday without his roll. What money remained in the family was kept in Chicago by his careful wife, who expects to drop in here in a day or two with carfare back to Los Angeles.

Just what Scott's particular plan is no one seems to know yet. That he made a famous run over the Santa Fe system from Los Angeles to Chicago is now a local record, but that he brought his gold to New York is another story. If the Santa Fe wanted to show it could do as well as the crack Eastern railroads in the way of whisking specials it got its money's worth.

Then, if Scotty has in his pocket a hoard like his predecessors who had similar games along other lines—until they hit the metropolis.

Posed for His Picture.

As might be expected, when Scott and his dog reached here on the Twentieth Century Limited, there was a great crowd at the station, made up principally of women and boys, who are never busy these hot days.

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Exacting in Making Loans.

"For many years, in the absence of these regulations, the two companies with which I am connected have made plans and specifications which have been carefully examined by our architects, and if they were short of the good construction in material and plans that we consider as a standard, we refuse to loan money for the construction of such buildings.

RAILROAD MESSENGER RUN OVER AND KILLED

Roscoe E. Underwood, seventeen years old, of 223 McLean avenue southwest, employed by the Pennsylvania railroad as a messenger, was run over and killed last night by passenger train No. 21. He was on a train known as the Annex, and stepped off the south-bound main track under the Pennsylvania avenue bridge and was struck by the passenger.

GEN. VON EMIN'S HEALTH OCASIONS DEEP ALARM

BERLIN, July 15.—The rumors concerning the ill-health of the Prussian minister of war, General Von Emin, are today officially denied.

THE CAUSE OF SADDNESS.

"Every time I meet that man Blinks I feel sad."

GOVERNMENT REPORTS FARMERS' SAFEGUARD

Strong Argument Showing How Private Enterprises Would Benefit if Present System of Issuing Crop Statistics in Washington Were Abolished.

"When crop reports are perfect, here will be no speculation.

"The nearer the crop reports approximate to perfection, the less speculation will be possible.

"To abolish Government crop reports would be equivalent to placing the producer at the mercy of the big operators and speculators."

Such is, in substance, the argument that the Department of Agriculture officials make in favor of crop reports, and of the most accurate ones possible.

Demand for Abolition.

Since the exploitation of the sensation about the cotton crop reports, which are alleged to have been manipulated and given out to favored brokers in advance of general quarters a demand has been made for the abolition of the whole system of Government reports.

The reply is to the effect that if the Government did not make a crop report, private enterprise would be influenced by private interest.

"Let me explain what this illustration," said an Agricultural Department official, "suppose there were no Government crop reports. A clique of wheat operators in Chicago determines to corner the wheat market."

"The next step is to handle the information to their own advantage."

"Where Government Comes In."

Every farmer who has a small crop thinks he is the unfortunate exception to the general rule.

"Having misled the farmer into selling to them at a low figure, they now hold the wheat supply in their hands."

"The Government making a crop report in which every farmer's reliance, this is impossible.

"The reason for this is easily apparent. Fully 95 per cent of our crop reports are farmers' reports."

"How accurate our crop estimates have been is best shown by the cotton statistics. It is probable that no other crop in the world is so accurately followed up as cotton."

"The farmer may feed his corn and oats and he may sell it, and the cotton statistics, based on the receipts at the markets, the haulage by the railroads, etc., are almost absolutely accurate."

"We are therefore able to get a figure by which to test our crop report estimates."

"Colonel Hester, of the New Orleans cotton exchange, makes up the statistics of the cotton yield with the utmost care and accuracy. And it is the testimony of the Department's worst enemy that our reports have never been estimated away from the truth."

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they are issued, they are always short of the actual yield.

Fought by Speculators.

"Another thing must be borne in mind. The more accurate and complete the crop statistics the Government issues, the more bitterly would certain interests attack them."

The demand for their abolition comes now from the speculative interests. The reason is plain. If it were possible to make a crop reporting system so perfect that it would let the world know exactly what its year's crop of each great staple was going to be, speculation would be impossible.

The world knows very accurately how much wheat, cotton, corn, etc., it needs per annum. Given the information as to how much of each crop it was going to have on hand after harvest, it would adjust prices to the supply, and speculation would be impossible.

Speculation depends on the margin of uncertainty in the reports and estimates. The difficulties that must be met in making crop reports are of a serious nature. The tobacco growers, for example, have a perpetual feud with the tobacco trust for the reason that the crop to appear as large as may be, in order to depress prices, the producers want it to appear as small as possible in order to keep prices well up.

Either side is prepared to make charges of inaccuracy in the reports and estimates. The various associations of tobacco growers have undertaken efforts to control their crops, sometimes by agreement with the trust, and sometimes by the organization of warehouse associations, which take the crop and issue certificates against it, by which the certificate owner may borrow money. Thus by co-operation the growers trust to themselves powerful enough to fight the trust.

"Between these two powerful interests it is unavoidable that the department should be accused at times of favoring one or the other."

"Somebody must be trusted and Mr. Holmes was trusted. For eight months he was in charge of the department and issued reports of apparently great ability and entire integrity."

"The matter was taken up with Secretary Wilson yesterday, and the Secretary is seriously considering it."

Oppose Abolishment of Statistics.

The cotton growers do not want the Bureau of Statistics abolished, as has been suggested. They feel that it is capable of doing work that will be of great value to the cotton interests if it is properly conducted.

It is properly conducted. This interests them more than the conviction of crooks, although they are not disposed to have Holmes' transgressions go unpunished.

In the matter of the complaints regarding the tobacco crop reports, some criticism has been caused by the publication of specially prepared matter under the name of Chief Statistician Hyde, purporting to be an analysis of the condition of the crop July 1. It is claimed that Statistician Hyde gave a private publication the benefit of this information and of his compilation of it, before it had been published by the Government.

Efforts to locate the parents while on their trip were unsuccessful. Both are prostrated from grief.

Parents on Vacation, Son Was Drowned.

WINSTED, Conn., July 15.—On their return from a week's vacation trip Irving W. Atkins, superintendent of the Gilbert Clock Company, and Mrs. Atkins found a message saying that their son Benjamin, aged nineteen, was drowned at Weehawken, near Jersey City, last Sunday.

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COTTON GROWERS HELPING BEACH

Hope to Land Bigger Fish Than Holmes.

ANXIOUS FOR NEW REPORT

Those Already Issued on Year's Acreage Show Effects of Crooked Work Done.

Important conferences are being held in Washington today in which prominent Southern cotton men are participating.

Richard Cheatham, secretary of the Southern Cotton Growers' Association, whose charges brought about the investigation of the bureau of statistics, and the subsequent dismissal of Associate Statistician Holmes for complicity in the cotton report leak, speak a greater part of yesterday in conference with District Attorney Beach, going carefully over the case with him and placing at his disposal all the evidence the Cotton Growers' Association has.

Mr. Cheatham is confident that the drag net of the District Attorney will catch bigger fish than Holmes before it is hauled in, and he is doing all in his power to help things along.

President Jordan Here.

Harvey Jordan, president of the Cotton Growers' Association, has returned to Washington from New York, where he went to consult with officers of the New York Cotton Exchange, who are taking an active interest in the matter.

Mr. Jordan did not go to Oyster Bay, as it was reported he would. He expects to see Secretary Wilson while he is here, however.

What the Southern Cotton Growers' Association and leading Southern cotton men want is a new report on this year's acreage. They feel that the first report was tampered with, and that the second, made on July 3, showed effects of the crooked work done on the first.

They would like to have Secretary Wilson call for a new deal, and put his field agents at work at once.

In this plan they have the strong backing of Chief Statistician Hyde. The matter was taken up with Secretary Wilson yesterday, and the Secretary is seriously considering it.

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PENNSYLVANIA FLIER STRUCK WRECKED FREIGHT

HARRISBURG, Pa., July 15.—The Pennsylvania flier, the new eighteen-hour train between Chicago and New York, struck a wrecked freight train while running at top speed, west of Port Royal, near this city, at 5:07 this morning. The flier remained on the track and nobody was injured but the engineer.

A westbound freight was halted so suddenly that it buckled, and one of the cars was thrown across the passenger track. Just then the flier appeared, and before it could be signaled struck the derailed car and hurled it from the track.

The engineer, Calvin Miller, of this city, jumped when he saw the obstruction and was hurled about the head and back. Fireman Garman, of Harrisburg, stopped the train, and afterward engine 170 to the city. The passenger engine was slightly damaged.

The flier, which ever since its inception has been a source of pride to the Pennsylvania Railroad, is now being repaired.

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